Redefining of Mega Power Projects

97. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is redefining mega power projects in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to consider mega power projects to lower the cost in order to pass on the benefits to consumers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, in May, 2006, the mega power policy was amended for reducing the minimum qualifying threshold capacity in respect of thermal power plants from 1000 MW to 700 MW for projects located in the States of J&K and the 8 States of North East. The corresponding qualifying capacity for hydro power plants in these States was also reduced from 500 MW to 350 MW.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Rural Electrification in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh

98. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allotted and released to the States of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, State-wise under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme;

(b) whether the funds so allotted and released for these States have been fully utilized;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the areas which have been left to provide the electricity under the scheme; and

(d) the details thereof and by when all villages and houses in these two States are likely to be covered under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The funds under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana are released in instalments commensurate with the progress reported by the implementing agencies. The first instalment against the sanctioned project is released on confirmation by the implementing agency of its readiness for release of turnkey contract within a week.

So far Rs. 106.58 crore has been released to Uttarakhand but Himachal Pradesh has not availed the funds under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY). State-wise details of funds, disbursed under RGGVY as on 19-2-2007 are given as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

	Amount disbursed under RGGVY			
State	During 2004-05	During 2005-06	During 2006-07 upto 9-2-2007	Total
Uttarakhand	-	59.44	47.14	106.58
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-

(b) Yes, Sir. The implementing agencies have reported full utilization of funds disbursed to them under RGGVY.

(c) and (d) projects sanctioned for Uttarakhand for which funds have been released are for the districts of Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Rudraprayag and Bageshwar. Electrification of all the un-electrified villages and providing access to electricity to all rural households in the country, including Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, is targeted to be completed by 2009.

New company/agency for power plant equipment

99. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to establish one more power company/agency for producing power plant equipments or achieving Ministry's ambitious Mission 2012—Power for all;